

Intervention: Increase availability of distance education and Web-based coursework

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background on the intervention:

Distance learning opportunities and Web-based coursework aim to advance the competency of the public health work force and provide flexibility for its employees.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

Research found insufficient evidence to determine the effectiveness of distance education or Web-based coursework for public health workers in an effort to promote a sufficient and competent public health workforce. Practices that lack sufficient research to support effectiveness should not be confused with ineffective programs. Rather, they should be recognized as programs that have the potential to become evidence-based practices—if properly evaluated. Practitioners are encouraged to monitor the impact of these programs in their communities and report on their findings in order to build a base of knowledge sufficient to reach consensus.

Additional information:

Public Health Workforce Study – <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/>
Council of State Governments Trends Alert – www.csg.org